

REMARKS

Claims 4-29 and 37-40 are pending and have been allowed. The undersigned thanks the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the discussion conducted January 5, 2005, during which agreement was reached on the actions necessary to place this application in condition for allowance. Specifically, the Examiner, the Examiner's supervisor, and the undersigned agreed that the application would be in condition for allowance if Applicant submitted a complete listing of the claims, with any amendments referenced to the claims in the issued patent, as well as corrected drawings consistent with those furnished by the Examiner in the December 30, 2005 Office Action.

The listing of claims is provided to ensure that the reissue patent is printed with an appropriate listing of claims. No amendments are made herein; thus, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(a)(2), no parenthetical explanations are provided, except to denote those claims that have been canceled during prosecution of the reissue. By way of further explanation, during prosecution of the reissue:

- Claims 1 through 3 were canceled on November 16, 1999.
- Claims 4 was amended on November 16, 1999.
- Claim 5 was amended on November 29, 2005.
- Claims 17 through 19 were added on June 1, 1999.
- Claims 20 through 40 were added on November 16, 1999.
- Claims 30 through 36 were canceled on December 20, 2002.

The corrected drawings formalize the suggestions made by Examiner in the December 30, 2005 Office Action.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that the application be passed to issue. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned prior to issuing a further Office Action.

No extension of time is believed necessary for this paper to be considered timely, and no fees are believed due with this response. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Corrected drawing sheets for FIGS. 3 (canceled), 3A (new), and 3B (new) are attached hereto. All sheets have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

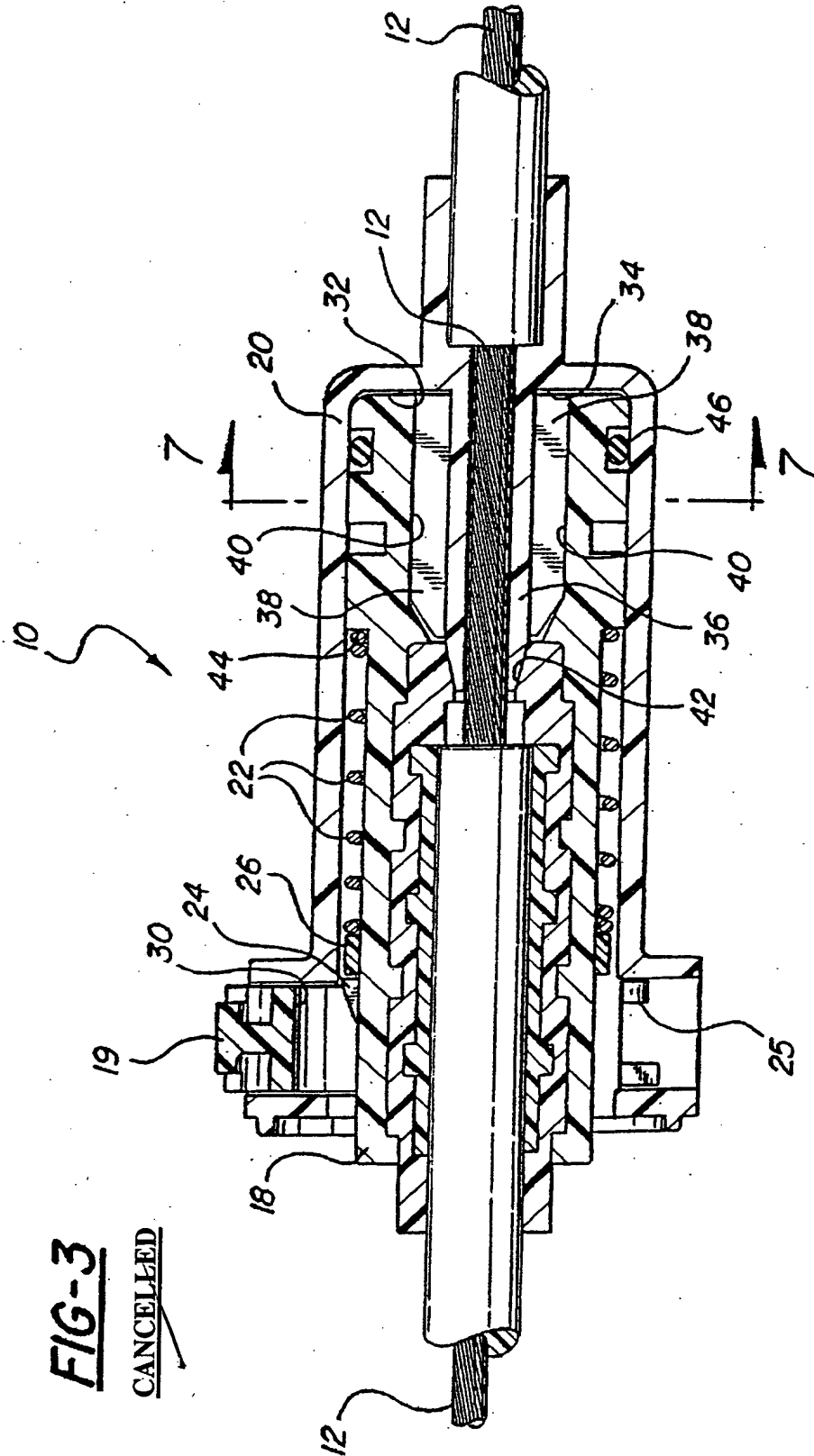


FIG-3

CANCELLED